

The Messenger.

FACTS AND FIGURES AS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH

Antitoxine has proved a very great blessing to humanity. Tens of thousands of children are protected against the destructive ravages of diphtheria by this great, beneficial agent. The rate of mortality in many parts of the world is daily lowered by this blessing to children. It is stated as a fact that in the one city of New York there are literally 1,000 lives saved by it each year. In other cities in our country other favorable results follow its treatment. Every where reports show a steady decrease in deaths where the antitoxine is faithfully used. It is known to doctors and others that great danger attends diphtheria with children under five years old. The Washington (D. C.) Star says that in London, the healthiest great city in the world, the health rate of infants (under 5) is 60 in 1,000, (London's total death rate being a trifle less than 18), with the death rate between the ages of 5 and 25 only 4%, and between 25 and 45 averaging less than 12. Thus an immense amount of attention is now being paid to the guarding of young children's lives by better sanitary regulations, cleaner streets and the thorough inspection of milk. The only city in the United States that shows no diminution of deaths is Providence, Rhode Island. Eighteen of the leading cities show reduction in mortality. Minneapolis shows a decrease from 17 per 1,000 inhabitants in 1886 to 9.3 in 1896. Let our city authorities make intelligent investigation as to how this great mortality reduction was secured in a city of nearly 200,000. Write to the health officers in Minneapolis and find out the causes operating so favorably. Surely they are worth knowing. The Washington paper says that eighteen cities show in reports approved by medical experts the number of lives saved this year. The cities are as follows: New York, Brooklyn, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Baltimore, San Francisco, Buffalo, Denver, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Hartford, Providence, St. Paul and Atlanta.

The lives saved foot up 23,867. The total population (estimated, 1897) of these cities is 10,725,000. Statistics show that 20,000,000 people of the United States live in cities. Even allowing the decrease of the death rate has not been so great in the other cities, there is little question but that the total number of lives saved yearly now amount to 35,000, and the complete figures would probably show nearer 40,000. Some cities are more favorably situated for health than others, and for this reason it may come to pass that where the sanitation is excellent as good results are not obtained. The following from the Washington paper is instructive and may not be passed over:

"Since 1892 these new scientific measures and methods have been coming into use. Chief among them have been antitoxine for diphtheria, the public supervision of tuberculosis, the bacteriological diagnosis of tuberculosis and diphtheria at the service of private physicians, the famous blood tests for typhoid, the inspection of milk, by which a cordon is formed around a city and no milk allowed to come in that does not reach a certain standard, the inspection of the cows (within the city limits) from which milk is produced, the cleaning of the streets and removal of garbage, sanitary inspection and the medical inspection of children in schools, and the wholesale destruction of rear tenements and condemned buildings.

"Properly speaking, this is the science of 'preventive medicine,' and it is all of these innovations, not one of which has proved a failure, that have made this revolution in the health of America's cities."

We invite our intelligent readers to particularly regard that statement. Study it to see how the benevolent and merciful results were secured, and then co-operate in demanding the employment of all such preventive measures for our own city. The adoption of proper measures of sanitation will save many lives in Wilmington and prove a great blessing to many a household. The death rate for four months has been exceedingly high in this city. Think of a vast city of nearly or quite 4,500,000 (four and a half million) of inhabitants having a death rate of a little less than 18 in the 1,000 inhabitants and Wilmington's being lately ten or more than London in every 1,000. Think of it and then combine for a perfect sewage system, pure water for drinking, and thorough cleansing of lots and streets every day and all the year round. In a great city like Berlin you can not find so much as a piece of paper in the streets. In Wilmington you can find many things that ought not to be allowed to be in the streets and alleys.

Chicago has adopted a new and vigorous system of sanitation. A reduction already has occurred in its death rate. Its rate is now much lower than that of New York. The British Medical Journal praises highly what has been done for the public health in the Five Points of New York. The measures adopted have been very salutary, greatly lessening the number of deaths. In the south in towns and cities the death rate among the negroes runs very high. Neglect increases the general death rate among both races. Lately under the yellow fever scare there is scraping and fumigating and "spasmodic cleansing," but there are spots in all that breed pestilence and invoke death.

In New York city last year there were nearly 800 deaths less from the one disease diarrhoea. Brooklyn shows an encouraging reduction in the same disease. We quote from The Washington Star:

"Antitoxine has now come into fairly

general use, Boston, St. Louis, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, New Orleans and Newark have adopted it, and Philadelphia in a measure. Cincinnati and Minneapolis are now considering the introduction of plants. Disinfection plants built on new lines are being rapidly established, especially in the south and west, and even the smallest cities of the country are beginning to take a keen interest in them."

What is Wilmington doing for the public health? That is a much greater question for all the inhabitants than office holding and ward politics.

We know whereof we affirm when we state that Ayer's Pills, taken promptly, at the first symptoms of colds and fevers, arrest further progress of these disorders, and speedily restore the stomach, liver, and bowels, to their normal and regular action.

PHYSICAL DEGENERACY

A four page pamphlet has been received. It is a brief discussion of the "Physical Degeneracy of the Modern Negro," by Dr. R. H. Johnson, of Brunswick, Ga. It is on the line of similar discussions, some one or more of which we have discussed and quoted from in the past. That there is physical decadence we have long thought. Our lamented friend, the late Dr. Thomas F. Wood, who was so well informed and such a safe authority, told us years before his death that the physical decay was in steady progress and gave us the chief causes. In an editorial since we drew upon a northern essay on the same subject quoting briefly from it to show the statistical import that had been collected. All medical and ethnological writers, so far as we have noticed, who have given the matter proper examination, have arrived at the same conclusion—that the negro race is in decline physically, and that there is a steady increase in the death rate—very greatly in excess of what it was in slave times. We are persuaded that the death rate is much in excess in the towns now than it ever was on the great plantations upon which lived large bodies of slaves.

Professor Robert Raburn, M. D., of Washington City, holds that the death rate of the negroes is nearly double that of the whites. Professor G. W. Hubbard, professor in McHerry Medical college, at Nashville, Tenn., an institution for negroes, thinks the death rate in the larger cities in the south is nearly double that of the whites, and that it is of much importance that they should be educated "Christian physicians to minister to the physical necessities of their own people, instructing them in regard to the laws of health, and by precept and example teaching him to live on a higher and better plain of life."

There is a class of diseases that make great inroads in the negro race. There was a time when consumption was rare among negroes. Now it is very common. There are some other diseases the doctors find among them that are undermining the living and sending degenerate and diseased children into the world to suffer, languish and die.

Dr. Johnson says that not only are the negroes dying faster than before, but the birth rate is diminishing. He contends that "the negro is also losing his racial identity." The pure blooded African is fast disappearing, he says, the time is ahead when a pure blooded African will not be found on this continent. He says that consumption prevails more now among the lighter colored class than among the blacks. He also insists that there is degeneracy intellectually in the younger or prent generation. Their environments have done this, he thinks. Dr. Johnson publishes statistical reports from several southern states and from some eight or ten southern cities showing the comparative percentage in increase of both races, the death rate per 1,000, and also statistics of increase in the United States from A. D. 1700 to 1896. The statistics are altogether favorable to the whites. We do not quote freely because the pamphlet is copyrighted and is sold at 15 cents.

Lack of vitality and color matter in the bulbs cause the hair to fall out and turn gray. We recommend Hall's Hair Renewer to prevent baldness and grayness.

SHARPS AND FLATS.

It seem that legislation in South Carolina has been very hurtful to an important industry. In fact the phosphate industry has been well nigh destroyed. The News and Courier says they have "killed the goose that laid the golden egg." It states through a Columbia special that the river phosphate mines, once a source of great revenue to the state, do not pay enough now of "royalty" to meet the amount guaranteed the sinking fund. The official reports show all the facts involved, and they are anything else than encouraging. All the companies, we think, show a heavy diminution of product.

There is nothing that shows the natural brutality of manhood more than "hazing" in colleges. Why it has been ever tolerated is a mystery. It is a disgrace to nineteenth century civilization and a positive stigma upon college or institution of learning that permits it to exist. It is called "horse-play," but it is really unworthy of cowboys and

Hood's Pills
Are gaining favor rapidly. Business men and travelers carry them in their pockets, ladies carry them in purses, housekeepers keep them in medicine closets, friends recommend them to friends. No

Indians. The Chicago Chronicle thinks it will never be entirely stopped, and now read its reason, perhaps correct, for this opinion:

"The young male human animal is naturally of a rather cruel disposition. It may be added that he is usually more or less cowardly, and that he delights in inflicting annoyance or physical pain upon those weaker than himself. Hence hazing is likely to continue, in one form or another, until the race reaches a higher plane of civilization."

The "fun" of "hazing" should be suppressed by the strong hand of public law wherever the faculties in colleges plead to the charge of inability to put an end to such cruelties, such brutalities.

We called attention to a theory or contention of our Bishop Gaines, a brother in black, that the future of the negro race was not promising, as it was destined to disappear because of mixing up in blood with the whites. The able preacher tells it that "the most discriminating observers in the south affirm that there are left but two millions of pure, unmixed Africans out of the more than eight millions of the race in this country." If he really believes that he ought in regard for his race to be a strong advocate of African immigration, of deportation of the whole race to Africa. He thinks the negroes will finally all become Caucasians. We do not believe in his theory or his figures. There are fewer signs now of amalgamation and absorption than twenty or thirty years ago. The Charleston News and Courier, like The Messenger, does not believe in the Gaines contention as "a working theory." It says, but we quote only a small part:

"It will not stand the test of critical examination, however, and its weakness is readily exposed without much effort." The fact is, on the contrary, that the "whitening" process, which obtained to some extent in past years, has been abruptly stopped. No special facilities for observation are needed to establish the very evident fact that the infusion of fresh white blood into the negro race in this country, at any rate, has absolutely stopped. There is nothing in any of the known conditions, again, to warrant the slightest assumption that the races will ever be fused to that result and no suggestion of approach to it. The contrary need not be considered seriously."

In many cases, the first work of Ayer's Sarsaparilla is to expel the effects of the other medicines that have been tried in vain. It would be a saving of time and money if experimenters took Ayer's Sarsaparilla at first instead of at last.

HOME FOLKS.

Davidson college is steadily gaining in attendance. The last report gives 177 matriculates. This is one more than the highest enrolment. In 1895 it was 176. By the close of the college year there will be additions. Number of new matriculates, 83; candidates for the ministry, 35; non-church members 32. There are five professors in the medical school.

Horror of horrors! When and where will the deviltry of the roaming rapists cease? The unmitigated curse of savages in North Carolina grows in repetition rather than in diminution. There is no protection to a white maiden or wife in North Carolina either when in her own home or on the highway. How can lynching be expected to cease so long as such infernal deeds are done and women are helpless against the scoundrels?

What a fine biographical sketch and tribute that is in the last North Carolina Presbyterian in memory of the Rev. Dr. Drury Lacy! It is in excellent taste, sober, restrained, faithful. We knew, we are glad to be able to say, the admirable divine from our boyhood to near the close of his most useful and benignant life. We were in a class with his son Horace, a gifted boy, at Lovejoy's military academy at Raleigh in 1845. The doctor once or twice visited the academy and heard in part the recitation of the class. In advancing years we saw him frequently. He was most gracious, sympathetic and always cheery. The sketch is exact in this particular as we recall him:

"In personal appearance Dr. Lacy was tall and of remarkably attractive and imposing presence. His eye was a fine blue-gray, kindling and lighting and melting. His face was fair, and his color and freshness abode even to advanced age. His voice was remarkably rich and strong, full of power, tenderness and pathos. He was a fine singer, and his deep bass like soft thunder was always welcome in any circle of song, sacred or secular. His manners were exceedingly warm and cordial. He was a friend to every one where, and was always gaining new friends and cementing old friendships. One writer felicitously said of him 'He always kept his friendship in repair.' He was so gracious and courtly in manner and speech, he was so manifestly sincere and true, he was so winning and lovable, that every one was drawn toward him, and he was greatly and most ardently and devotedly beloved."

He was indeed a man to esteem and to know. An attractive, animated, able preacher he drew well and was admired and liked by people not Presbyterians as well as those of his own religious family. Such a man's life is full of grace and benediction to a community or state.

The division of the colored vote in Indianapolis and elsewhere is the most hopeful augury for the future of the race that has appeared for years. This division will be permanent. The colored vote of the country has ceased to be the property of the republican party. It belongs to the voters themselves, to be used for their own best interests and the best interests of the country. They realize the fact and are governing themselves accordingly.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

Northern sportsmen are beginning to arrive at the game preserves at High Point and other places in this state.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The Black Mountain Eagle, published at Burnsville, has suspended.

Salisbury Sun: The family of Colonel Wm. Howard yesterday received news from him to the effect that he was paralyzed on his left side Tuesday and was in a critical condition.

Louisburg Times learns of the death of Dr. Nick Sills, of Nash county, which sad event took place at his home on Wednesday morning. He was a prominent physician, and one of the ablest men in the state.

Durham Sun: Mr. E. C. Hackney, who lives on the corner of Corcoran and Green streets, has six young pecan trees in his yard. They are just beginning to bear fruit. Yesterday he gathered as many as a hatful of well developed pecans, the first grown in Durham, in open air, so far as we are now advised.

Rocky Mount Argonaut: We had hoped against hope that our colored postmaster when better acquainted with the duties of the office would conduct it in a more business manner, but instead of getting better, it seems to be getting worse every day, and is now in such a shape that the people of Rocky Mount cannot depend upon getting their mail, or having their letters posted here reach their destination.

Raleigh Press: Ahead, in the way of handsome and attractive exhibits and displays at the fair, is that of Colonel J. M. Carr, of Durham, with his famous Oconeechee stock farm, and Blackhall Durham Tobacco Company exhibits. With his usual good taste and eye for attractive effects, Colonel Carr presents his displays in a manner that wins admiration from all.

Raleigh News and Observer: Mr. E. A. White, collector of internal revenue of this district under Harrison is in the city. He says that the cotton and corn crop of his section are fine, but the farmers are blue over the failure of the rice crop and low price of cotton; Mr. White believes the Albemarle section, the best portion of North Carolina, and the garden spot of the world. There is no doubt, in his opinion, that when the people of the world come to know of the fertility of eastern North Carolina, it will be a favorable home for settlers.

Fayetteville Observer: Last night about 1 o'clock, Officer Maulsby and David Watkins, and several others, captured Ned Campbell at his home in the river academy. Campbell is the negro who shot at Officer Benton and Mr. Watkins several weeks ago, the former officer having been his assailant. Campbell was shot in the shoulder and arm. He was taken to the hospital and is now recovering. Campbell was a colored hand on the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley material train, had his arm so terribly crushed that it had to be amputated at the shoulder joint by Doctors McDuffie and McGowan. He is in a serious condition, but will probably recover.

Asheville Gazette: At the mill of Mont Glazier, near Estatoe ford, about nine miles above Brevard, a few days ago, a young man by the name of Wash Whittemire met a tragic death. The unfortunate man had gone to the grist mill of Glazier to have his grist ground. The proprietor was met on the way and told Whittemire to proceed to the mill and put it in operation and do his own grinding and to leave one-half of the customary toll. Whittemire followed these instructions, went to the mill, a small tub mill, placed his grain in the hopper and started the mill to work. By some unaccountable means, Whittemire became involved in the shaft, his coat being caught in the machinery, and he was carried around with the stones. There was no one with him with mill and his death was not known for several hours when a woman passed by the mill and found him still entangled in the works with life extinct and the body badly mutilated.

Asheville Gazette: Perhaps those who are contemplating a venture to the gold fields of Alaska will be interested in knowing that a "Klondyke" has been discovered in Western North Carolina. Robert Robinson, of the city, has returned from an expedition in the western counties in company with a party of capitalists from Atlanta and Chattanooga, who are investigating the mineral resources of Western North Carolina with a view of investing. We are informed by Mr. Robinson, who was in charge of the party, that the investigation of the gold mines in the counties visited were altogether satisfactory. Assays of ores deducted from the mines investigated have been made with favorable results, showing values ranging from \$120.00 to \$100.00 per ton. Further assays and a more thorough investigation of the veins discovered will hereafter be made and in all probability a stamp mill and other appurtenances will be established for a full development of this mineral interest.

Governor Russell's defense of himself on account of his taking railroad passes, is the weakest effort of his life. Indeed, it could hardly have cost him any effort at all. We have no sympathy with the idea that every man who takes a railroad pass is necessarily a bad man, and that his acceptance of it is prima facie evidence of his corruption. If a man goes into a war upon corporations for a steady business he ought to decline their courtesies or at least make his object plain, and not make a pretense of acceptance of these courtesies. The fact that the man is a hireling of the corporations. What does the governor say? He says substantially that he takes passes in order to get even with Judge Simonton and other people; that he has rendered no equivalent for his transportation, and doesn't intend to, but that he proposes to beat the railroads out of everything he can.—Charlotte Observer.

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